

A HISTORY
OF
THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS OF
ENGLISH FREEDOM,

Ending with the Passing of the Absolute-Power-of-Imprisonment Act, in the Month of March, 1817.

ADDRESSED TO
MR. JOHN GOLDSMITH, OF HAMBLETON, AND MR. RICHARD HINXMAN, OF CHILLING,

WHO WERE
The Chairman and Seconder at the Meeting of the People of Hampshire, on Portsdown Hill, in the month of February, 1817, to Petition for a Redress of Grievances, and for a Reform in the Commons House of Parliament.

LETTER VI.

Doctor Watson's Trial and Acquittal. Acquittal of the other State Prisoners. — The un-ravelling of the Plots. — The whole Scheme blown into the air. — The mask pulled off. — The Boroughmongers left without the smallest disguise. — The real Men of Blood discovered. — Conclusion of the History of the Last Hundred Days of English Freedom.

North Hampstead, Long Island,
15 August, 1817.

MY WORTHY AND BELOVED FRIENDS,
Often I have said that the Boroughmongers would find, if once they attempted to dip their hands in the

people's blood, that "blood for blood" would become the motto of the people. Let the former remember this. Let them stop while yet there is time; or, let them not expect a tear of pity for them or for their children, in that day when even-handed justice shall give them back measure for measure, lacking not one single drop of what shall be their due. Our unhappy country is, it seems, according to the accounts of the bloody Boroughmonger newspapers, *all in a state of commotion*. What, then! the people do not remain quiet (for quiet they were *before*), after receiving loads of unmerited stripes! They most humbly prayed to be restored the enjoyment of their rights. The answers they received were the *gag*, and the threatened dungeon and halter! They met particularly, in the brave county of Lancaster, to remonstrate against these intended acts of injustice and cruelty. While they were met, and peaceably met for the legal purpose of petitioning, they were surrounded with soldiers, and, with the bayonet at their breast, like malefactors were dragged to a prison! And they do not like *this*; strange, perverse, stiff-necked race! They do not like treatment like this, while they pay one half of their earnings in taxes, and while they are liable to be called out to shed their blood in defence of those who thus treat them! Wicked people! To imagine that the treatment of ordinary dogs is not far too

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good for them ! Perverse people ! To growl and snap when they are beaten without cause and without mercy ; and beaten, too, by those who have not a tenth part of their own understanding !

Upon the subject of these commotions, however, I shall hereafter have occasion to remark. At present, the **PLOTS** ; the famous **Plots** are the subject of my attention. In this very letter, it was my intention to have shown how false all the pretences were with regard to the plots and conspiracies mentioned in the Reports of the two Houses of Parliament. The trial of Doctor **WATSON**, and the bringing forward of that precious gentleman, Mr. **CASTLES**, have prevented me from going here into any reasonings or speculations upon the subject. Mr. Castles, under the guidance of his judicious friend the Attorney General, **SHEPHERD**, has saved me a wonderful deal of trouble. He has proved ; he has made matter of record ; he has made materials for history, those facts, which, without his assistance and that of his worthy friend the Attorney General, **SHEPHERD**, I should have been obliged to leave to the discretion and decision of my readers.

Mr. **WETHERELL**'s defence of Doctor **WATSON** was very able, and, perhaps, it was better calculated to produce an acquittal than a speech of better politics would have been, I, however, can never give my unqualified approbation of any speech which contains unqualified approbation of the present government and present ministry in England, as Mr. **Wetherell**'s speech did ; and, there is want of taste as well as of judgment and sincerity in praising the Ministry to the skies, as the most pure and excellent of men, while, in the next breath, the Speech tells the Jury, that **Castles** stands before them, a most naked villain, a bare-faced, perjured wretch, and, that he is fed, clad, and paid by that same government and ministry ; and

that the very clothing upon his back is a mere fore-taste of the blood-money which he is to receive for bringing the devoted victims at the Bar to the gallows. I disagree with Mr. **WETHERELL**, too, in the abusive epithets and terms which he applies to Mr. **Castles** ; and I rather agree with the Attorney and Solicitor General, that we ought to look upon him not with an eye of so much severity. He is, after all, a far less villain than a man who sells a seat in Parliament ; a far less villain than a man who bribes a Parliament to sell its country and itself too ; and a far less villain than any of those who commit numerous murders under the guise of law and justice, and who pretend to be actuated by motives of loyalty and love of the country and constitution. There have been villains of this sort in former times. There were the **JEFFRIESSES** and the **LAWSONS** in the time of the **STEWARTS**. These bloody monsters cut off men's ears, burnt their cheeks, split their noses, shut them up in dungeons for years, under pretence of their having been guilty of seditious libels. And they did it too, like other villains of the same stamp, under the pretence that what they did was necessary to the tranquillity of the country and the safety of the throne ! Those cruel villains, after having produced civil wars, and the destruction of both the **Kings** who listened to them, had ample justice visited upon their own guilty heads, and which justice was inflicted, too, by the hands of those brave and resolute Englishmen, whose descendents we are. The base and cruel villain used a great deal of *cant* ; pretended to a great deal of impartiality ; when wrapped up in their ermine and at the while they were trying to get the victim safe into their claws, they *purred* like *Pussy* ! But, the moment the victim came safely within the reach of their discretion, his bones began to crack under their teeth, his blood to issue from the corners of their mouths ; like *Pussy*, they growled and

swore and revelled in the enjoyment of their savage fury! In their approaches, soft goes their pat upon the floor; meekly, and, as it were, half-asleep, they peep through their fur at their prey; like Pussy, sitting before the hole, they sometimes purr and sometimes seem to sleep. But, the moment the Jury has let the poor mouse go into their claws, they are all activity, all boldness, up goes the corner of the robe, like the cat's tail, and the wretched victim, has no more chance of mercy than if he were in the hands of the persecutor of Job.

Such were the villains of Judges, who lived in the time of the STEWARTS, when that famous Judge HOLT, of whom they talk so much now, was a Barrister, and who had the baseness, after he had received his fee, to desert his client, Mr. PRYNNE. These men were infinitely worse than Mr. CASTLES; for they pretended to be guided in their conduct by a desire to promote the interests of loyalty, morality and religion, whereas, honest Mr. Castles has no pretence of this sort. He is a villain; but he is a villain without a mask. Like a Boroughmonger, he cares nothing about shedding blood; but then he does not, like a Boroughmonger, pretend to want to prevent blood from being shed. His trade is blood, human blood, and that was known by the Boroughmongers long and long ago, to be sure. But, then, he is not base enough to deny his trade. He comes manfully forward and says that he wants blood, in order that he may have money; because, without blood, he cannot have money. There is, therefore, something in Mr. Castles's mode of proceeding that makes him less detestable in many eyes, and far less detestable than many others, whom, though we know them to be villains, we *dare not call* them so. If a house-breaker be taken up and examined at Bow-street, he is, upon that bare examination, the next day, called a *villain*, in all the news-papers. But these news-paper gentlemen are very cautious how

they give this appellation to any one who has power at his command or pounds in his pocket. This conduct has always been regarded by me as being extremely base; and, so far from imitating the conduct of Mr. Wetherell in this particular, I shall treat Mr. Castles with the greatest degree of politeness, and shall call him the *honourable* Mr. Castles, or the "honourable gentleman," which appears to me to be really his due. Occasionally he may be called the *loyal* Mr. Castles; for, when the Devil comes to cast up his account, neither the DUKE OF MONTROSE nor LORD Somebody MURRAY, who told the story about the bullets, will have a greater stock of *loyalty* to plead. These men differ in some respects, from the honourable Mr. Castles, but nobody will pretend that they ever went farther than he in the unravelling of Plots. They, indeed, have not, as far as the world knows, at any rate, the fiftieth part of the merit of this "Honourable Gentleman;" for he not only discovered plots, but assisted in hatching of them; which nobody has pretended to *prove* with regard to any persons connected with the Ministry or the Boroughmongers; that is to say, persons other than Mr. Castles himself, who, it must now be manifest to the whole world, was the agent in the hands of the agents of the Boroughmongers, to produce a pretended insurrection.

For the reasons just stated, we will treat Mr. Castles with the same politeness in point of appellation, as we do others whom we detest, but of whom we dare not speak in the manner that justice would authorize. There are many appellations, either of which he would very well merit; but, as being the most in vogue, we will give him the appellation of "honourable gentleman." Whether we shall ever see him upon that list of sinecures, pensions and grants, where we already find the names of DUNDASS, BURKE, STEELE, JOSEPH HUNT, CANNING, WM. GIFFORD, SOUTHEY,

all the ROSES and many others, which I need not now name; whether we shall ever find Mr. Castles's name upon this list, will depend, probably, more upon *events* than upon the wishes or intentions of Mr. Castles's friends. It is not quite impossible that Mr. Castles may, for a short time, at any rate, have a seat in an assembly much more respectable, in all outward appearances, at least, than the assemblies at MOTHER TONGUE'S, or those of thieves and house-breakers in Smock-alley and Petticoat-lane. I do not say, that, at bottom, Mr. Castles will have changed his society for the better; but, at any rate, if one must keep late hours and bad company, one would rather be with robbers that are not lousy than with robbers that are lousy, though one may be very well convinced at the same time, that the former deserve hanging much more than the latter.

Having thus premised, let us now, my friends, proceed to take a view of the London Plots as they now stand unravelled. And, if such a scene of infamy; if a scene of so much baseness, ever was witnessed before, I beg to know from Beckett or Gifford or Southey, when and where it was that the world witnessed such a scene.

In order that we may see the whole thing in its true light; in order that we may be sure that the insurrection in London was hatched by the Boroughmongers and their tools; in order that we may be sure of this, we must not suffer Mr. Castles's evidence to stand alone. That "honourable gentleman," indeed, almost positively swears to the fact. DOWLING positively swears that he was employed, before the Meeting took place, to go and take down the words. But, we must go back, now, and trace the minds of the Boroughmongers through their press, and through some other symptoms, until we come to the interesting sequel; the interesting unravelling of the Plot, which has been so kindly given to the world by the "honourable" Mr. Castles

and Mr. Dowling, and through the assistance and instrumentality of that judicious gentleman Mr. SHEPHERD, the Attorney General, who found out that my son owed 80 thousand pounds to the Stamp-Office. Mr. WETHERELL's object was to triumph over the Attorney General *as a lawyer*, which he fairly did; but Mr. WETHERELL took special care to keep his peace with the Ministry; and, indeed, he seems, upon this occasion, to have availed himself of the opportunity of convincing the Ministry and the Boroughmongers that he was a man that was *worth something*, which, I dare say, they will perceive, and will, I have no doubt, very soon discover the sure way of having the full benefit of his talents. He is a member of parliament already, in right of his own purse; he has *voted for* the renewal of the absolute-power-of-imprisonment Bill; and, if things go on in the present way, he may, very probably, be Attorney General himself, if not something higher.

From such a person we could not expect such an exposure of the plotters as truth and public good demanded. It was his affair to trace back the thing no farther than was required in order to fight his rival the Attorney General. He, therefore, told the jury, that the change of the charge from *Misdemeanour* to *High Treason* took place in consequence of Mr. Castles's coming forward. But, as we shall presently see, it took place in consequence of the recently-formed resolution to pass the gagging Bills, and which resolution was not formed at the time when the charge of Misdemeanour was brought forward.

We must go into the matter from the beginning, and trace the plot regularly all through from the apprehensions of the Boroughmongers; from their alarm at the progress of the principles of Reform; and we shall find the whole hang together as completely as the links of any chain that ever was forged. In the former part of this history, we have seen, that,

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early as the month of October, the Boroughmongers had taken the alarm, and had begun to sound that alarm by the means of their corrupt and hired press. When the Two-penny Register made its appearance, they clearly perceived, that the days of deception were passed. or, at least, that they speedily would be passed for ever, unless a belief could be created amongst the foolish, the timid and the selfish, that the Reformers aimed at a *French Revolution*, the horrors of which, a million-fold magnified, were still lurking in the minds of the nation. But, to create such a belief as this was no easy matter, seeing that the very publication, of which the Boroughmongers most complained, inculcated a peaceable and orderly conduct; and, what is more, really produced such conduct on the part of the people all over the kingdom. Moreover, and which was a thing truly wonderful, this publication, at the same time that it urged the people on to demand Reform, actually put an end to a course of unlawful violences, which were before taking place in numerous parts of the country.

These facts, so striking in themselves and so honourable to the minds of the people and to the cause of Reform, reduced the Boroughmongers almost to despair. They saw no hope of riots. The Bakers, Butchers, and other dealers in the necessaries of life, were no longer annoyed by senseless attacks. The Boroughmongers could complain of no violences. They, therefore, from that very moment, began to think of hatching plots, in order to serve as a pretence for resisting the petitions for Reform, not by argument, but by force of arms. It was in the month of October, that the *COURIER* and the *TIMES*, both in the pay of the Boroughmongers, began to pave the way for these plots. The former of these papers had these words: "There is ONE POINT, to which we wish particularly to call the public attention. Much praise is given to the Meetings for their

peaceable conduct. Why *peaceable*? "Because they know that tumult would defeat their *real* as well as their *pretended* object. Peace! "They would keep *peace* for a time, till the crisis is ripe for explosion. "Like the Sportsman, they would advance with *silent step*, and crouching, fawning curs, till they are secure of killing their game."

The impudence and baseness of this must be manifest to every man. I quoted the paragraph and noticed it in my Register of the 9th of last November. From this moment forward attempts were constantly making by the Boroughmongers to excite *false alarms*; but the people had by this time discovered, that they had been ruined by the false alarms of Pitt and Dundas and of the Fitzwilliams and the Bentincks and the Spencers. This new attempt to excite false alarms was like an attempt to pluck a pigeon a second time, before his feathers were come again. The undertaking appeared to be wholly hopeless. At last a most desperate expedient was resorted to. Written handbills were said to have been put under the doors of public houses, calling upon the people to take up arms against the tyranny, and calling upon them also to chop off the head of Castlereagh and to destroy the kingly government. These handbills were so perfectly ridiculous considered with regard to any real design of a revolutionary sort, that it was impossible to believe them to have proceeded from real conspirators against the state; but, when we saw them blazoned forth in the *COURIER* and the *TIMES*, it was very evident to me, that they had originated with the Boroughmongers and with their immediate agents.

The desperateness of the Boroughmongering crew may be easily gathered from their resorting to this expedient; but, soon after this, the first Meeting in *Spafields* came fortunately to their assistance. This was a Meeting, called by Dr. Watson, Mr. Preston and others, of the distressed per-

sons in and about London, and the professed object of the Meeting to petition the Prince Regent for a redress of grievances, and for relief. The advertisement, calling this meeting, was signed by DYALL, as Chairman of a Committee. It was now that Mr. HUNT came upon the stage; and of the causes of his so coming I will here state the particulars. Mr. PRESTON, who was the Secretary to the Committee, wrote a letter to Mr. HUNT, calling upon him to come to the assistance of his distressed countrymen, and to be present at the intended meeting in Spasfields. Upon receiving this letter Mr. HUNT went over to Botley to me, to ask me what I thought he had better do. My answer was, that, seeing that it was a body of his countrymen in distress that called upon him, it was useless for me to say, that he *ought* to go, for that I knew he would go. But, I observed to him, that it was necessary for him to bear in mind, how desperate the Borough-mongers were becoming, and that it behoved him, for the sake of the cause of Reform as well as for the sake of his own life, to be constantly on his guard against spies and informers; for that I was certain, that a trap would be laid to destroy him. He was of my opinion, and, as the invitation came from those persons who were called "*Spenceans*," I observed, that it would be his duty to take great care, not to suffer, in his person, or by the means of his concurrence, the cause of Reform to be *mixed up* with what was called the *Spencean Project*, and which project, by a little twisting and misrepresentation, might be made to mean a *general confiscation of real property*, though it really meant no such thing, as was evident from Mr. EVANS's pamphlet, which I then had lying upon the table. Mr. HUNT saw the danger of his appearing and giving his countenance to any petition proceeding upon the Spencean principles; and he, therefore, resolved, not to join, directly or indirectly in any such petition. The Meeting took place. A *Memorial*, as

it was called, had been prepared by the Watsons and others, to be moved at the Meeting. But, it is one thing to draw up a paper in a room, and another to have the ability to cause it to be received and passed by a Meeting of numerous persons promiscuously met. When, therefore, they came to the field, Mr. HUNT found little difficulty in setting aside the *Memorial*, and in proposing and causing to be passed a Petition to the Prince, respectfully worded, on the subject of Reform and of the sufferings of the people.

While this was going on in Spasfields the Boroughmonger press was actually at work, preparing the way to take the life of Mr. HUNT. The *COURIER*, which is published about noon, stated, that its Reporter had just left the meeting, and had just heard HUNT move a *Memorial* of a very *treasonable nature*, of which it then *actually inserted a passage*! This fact is proof positive of a dark and infamous plot against Mr. HUNT's life. But, how came the *COURIER* to say this, when the wretched proprietor, when the corrupt, sanguinary proprietor of that paper, must have known that he would have been contradicted in a few hours? No; he *did not know it*! And how this agent of the plotting came to be deceived you shall now hear the interesting account.

DYALL, the man who had signed the advertisement for the meeting, had long before the meeting took place, been sent for by JOHN GIFFORD, the Police Magistrate, and had shown the *Memorial* to Gifford, who had immediately transmitted a copy of it to Lord Sidmouth. Who furnished the infamous slanderer, the *COURIER*, with a copy of it, I leave you to guess. But, a copy of it he had; and, therefore, he stated in his paper, which was printed about the middle of the day, that Mr. HUNT had *just moved* the *Memorial*, and that it contained the *treasonable passage* which he inserted!

Look, now, at this series of facts

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First the advertisement appears; next it is stated in the newspapers that Mr. HUNT is coming to the Meeting; next DYALL is sent for, and "the *treasonable Memorial*" is copied and the copy lodged with the Secretary of State; next the Secretary of State keeps the copy quietly in his possession, and never apprizes Mr. HUNT that he is going to be led to commit treason; next, the COURIER stands ready with a copy in his possession; next, about the hour that he supposes that Mr. HUNT has fallen completely into the trap, the COURIER, the agent of the corrupt and bloody-minded Borough-mongers, puts into print and sends off all over the country, what he calls a *treasonable* passage of the Memorial, states that this has *just been moved* by Mr. HUNT, and thus paves the way for the *arrest* and the probable *death* of that gentleman. How the blood-hounds must have hung their tails, when they found that they were disappointed! Can you conceive any thing more base than the whole of this transaction? If one could believe it possible, that the agents in this dark piece of villainy are to escape unpunished; if one could believe this possible, the light of day would become hateful to one's sight.

I beg you to remark, that it is treason in any one not to *prevent* the commission of a treason, if he has the power of doing it; and yet no effort was made to prevent Mr. HUNT from committing what was called treason, and what would have been endeavoured to be made treason, too, if he had not been too discreet to commit it. Remark also, that what was *treason*, when it was thought to have come from *his* lips, was *no treason* in *Dyall*, who had it in his possession in a written document. No; it was not *Dyall*, whose blood was wanted by the COURIER and the Borough-mongers. It was Mr. HUNT whom they wanted to sacrifice. They knew very well all about the *Spenceans* long before. They had read their project in *Mr. Evans's Pamphlet*, which had been

sent to every Minister, and to every well-known public character years before; and this project of "*a common partnership in the land*" was now conjured up to be hitched on upon the cause of Reform, in order that both might be destroyed together. It was false to accuse the Spenceans, even the Spenceans, with a project of *confiscation*. They entitled their scheme "*Christian Policy*;" and they proceeded upon the principle, which the Apostle laid down for the guidance of the primitive Christians in their temporal affairs. They told their disciples, as the Apostle told his disciples, that they ought to enjoy "all things in common." But, look at the pamphlet of Mr. Evans, who was the great Apostle of the Sect, and, if you find one single word in that pamphlet, which would lead you to believe that Mr. Evans wished for confiscation of any sort; or that he wished to destroy any of the establishments of the country, then I give you leave to regard me as being upon a level with such a man as Shepherd the Attorney General. Therefore, even the Spenceans have been grossly and basely calumniated. But, when we know that their project has been on foot for so many years; when we know that the publication of their project has been struggling for public attention in all sorts of ways; when we know that the well-meaning, though wild-thinking leaders of the Sect have actually been urging every Minister for years past to adopt their plan; when we know that it was formally proposed, too, and treated only with ridicule by that vixen, PERCEVAL, who was ready to bite at every thing that came within the reach of his power; when we know that the plan has been advertised by writings upon the walls of London and ten miles round London, for, at least, seven or eight years past; when we know all this, who can be fool enough not to perceive, that the only reason for conjuring the thing up at this time, was, to couple it with the cause of Reform, and, by that means

to impute to the latter views of confiscation and revolution? The Spenceans had not changed their Plan. Their Plan continued to be what it was ten years before; and, therefore, it is clear that it was now conjured up by the Boroughmongers in order to vilify that cause of the country, which had been maintained by arguments, which neither those Boroughmongers nor their tools had been able to answer.

The sequel of the first Spa Fields Meeting was conducted by Mr. HUNT with the utmost prudence and propriety. Sir Francis Burdett declined to comply with the request of the Meeting, which was, *that he should present their Petition to the Regent*; but, there was this added to it, that he should *be accompanied by Mr. HUNT*. He refused to present the Petition, though I will venture to assert that he has engaged to present many Petitions much more strong in point of language, and far more offensive in point of sentiment, than this Petition; and I will further venture to assert, that he never in his whole life-time presented a Petition, either to the Parliament or to the Throne, couched in more correct, more dignified and more respectful language than this Petition. Nay, I will venture to assert, that this Petition was a better drawn Petition; more correct in its statements; more consequent in its reasonings; more judicious in its topics; and more logical and more forcible in its conclusions, than any Petition he ever presented in his life. Where, then, are we to look for the real cause of his refusal to present this Petition? Why, where we are to seek for the cause of his never having, even to this day, presented the Petition to the Prince from his own Constituents, which he was to have presented according to their resolution, "*accompanied by Lord Cockrane.*" This Petition had been agreed to at a very numerous Meeting in Palace Yard; its main subject was the corruption of the House of Com-

mons; it had been agreed to many months before I left England; and though many, many *Levees* had been held before that time, he had never been there to present that Petition, though he had been there for other purposes or for no purposes at all. Mr. Hunt may probably think it his duty to make public *the grounds* of Sir Francis's refusal upon the occasion above spoken of. For my part, I must content myself with the facts and with the conclusions, to which those facts naturally lead. At the Meeting in Spa Fields, Mr. Waddington observed, in speaking of the absence of Sir Francis Burdett, that "this was not a time for a man like Sir Francis to be nursing a boy that had tumbled out of a gig." But, no countenance was given to this by Mr. Hunt; and there appeared to the public, at any rate, no good reason whatever for declining to present this Petition.

This refusal, however, had very considerable weight in producing the subsequent events. The Boroughmonger news-papers, who knew very well what interpretation to give to this refusal, took special care to avail themselves of the occurrence. They took care to inform the public, that his son was so far recovered as to be able to ride out; that Sir Francis had gone to Hastings, where he was living in a house of GENERAL HULSE (a known creature of the court); and that Sir Francis himself, though he could not leave his son to come to the Meeting in Spa Fields, could leave him to go out a fox-hunting. In short, this refusal greatly encouraged the Boroughmongers; because they regarded it, and very justly, as a symptom that the Reformers would, when the pinch came, be abandoned by the man, whom they regarded as their chief, if not their only supporter in Parliament.

Nevertheless, undaunted by this refusal, Mr. Hunt proceeded to present the Petition himself. And proceeded, according to the very letter of his promise, to Carlton House. He was there received with the greatest atten-

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tion and respect, but was referred to the Secretary of State, as being the proper channel. By Lord Sidmouth he was received in a similar manner, who told him, that he would present the Petition to the Prince, and he further told him, that he disbelieved the calumnies published against him in the news-papers, and that he was convinced that Mr. Hunt's presence at the Meeting had prevented a great deal of mischief. His Lordship kept his promise in presenting the Petition without loss of time, and the moment he had so done, he informed Mr. Hunt of it by letter, *in order, that Mr. Hunt might make his report accordingly to the next Meeting.*

It was impossible for any gentleman in England to have conducted this matter with greater decorum than it was conducted by Mr. Hunt. But, now, observe, that it was clear from all these circumstances, that the Ministers must have had it completely in their power to prevent any thing resembling a commotion on the 2nd of December, when the next Meeting was held. They were perfectly well informed, even by Mr. Hunt himself, of the silly, inflammatory stuff, that was working in the minds of the Spencean enthusiasts. They had, besides, the proof of all this in DYALL's memorial. Was it, then, an act becoming a gentleman; was it an act becoming a friend of peace; was it an act becoming a Minister of the Crown, to keep silence as Lord Sidmouth did upon this occasion, and not to utter one word to Mr. Hunt in order to put him upon his guard; but, rather, to encourage him to hold the second Meeting, without putting him upon his guard at all?

All these facts were explicitly alleged in the Petition of Mr. Hunt to both Houses of Parliament, and, how completely did that Petition upset the main conclusion of the Reports from the Secret Committees! Though Sir Francis Burdet thought proper to sit in silence, while this Petition lay on the table of the House of Commons,

my Lord Holland, who presented it to the House of Lords, made that use of it, which became a sincere and honourable man. "Here," said his Lordship, "is a Petitioner, who offers to prove at your Lordship's Bar that the Secretary of State was duly apprized of all the circumstances which led to the insurrection of the second of December, and that he used no endeavours whatever to prevent that Meeting, but rather encouraged it." And, then he challenged Lord Sidmouth to *contradict the statements of the Petition if he could*, and not a word did Lord Sidmouth say in answer to this charge. What could be more cogent than this? Ought not the House to have hesitated? Not one moment did they hesitate; but, on the contrary, they hurried on the more to pass the Bills, and to put every man's person within the reach of their fangs.

If the Ministers had been desirous to prevent a commotion being produced by the wild and enthusiastic men whom they acknowledged Mr. Hunt to have prevented from working up a thoughtless multitude to desperate deeds; if they had been really desirous of preventing such a result of the Meeting of the second of December, would it have been too great a condescension in my Lord Sidmouth to have advised Mr. Hunt to be cautious, and to have warned him of the danger? His Lordship can, it seems, condescend to hold conferences with *infamous spies*; this is not beneath his Lordship. Therefore, it was not any sense of dignity (it would have been false dignity, I allow,) that prevented him from free communication with Mr. Hunt, who, he must have been very sure, could wish for nothing so earnestly as to cause peace and tranquillity to prevail, while he was engaged in the prosecution of his object of Reform, and while he was also engaged, as without any crime he might, in advancing his own popularity. But, instead of this line of

to impute to the latter views of confiscation and revolution? The Spenceans had not changed their Plan. Their Plan continued to be what it was ten years before; and, therefore, it is clear that it was now conjured up by the Boroughmongers in order to vilify that cause of the country, which had been maintained by arguments, which neither those Boroughmongers nor their tools had been able to answer.

The sequel of the first Spa Fields Meeting was conducted by Mr. HUNT with the utmost prudence and propriety. Sir Francis Burdett declined to comply with the request of the Meeting, which was, *that he should present their Petition to the Regent*; but, there was this added to it, that he should *be accompanied by Mr. HUNT*. He refused to present the Petition, though I will venture to assert that he has engaged to present many Petitions much more strong in point of language, and far more offensive in point of sentiment, than this Petition; and I will further venture to assert, that he never in his whole life-time presented a Petition, either to the Parliament or to the Throne, couched in more correct, more dignified and more respectful language than this Petition. Nay, I will venture to assert, that this Petition was a better drawn Petition; more correct in its statements; more consequent in its reasonings; more judicious in its topics; and more logical and more forcible in its conclusions, than any Petition he ever presented in his life. Where, then, are we to look for the real cause of his refusal to present this Petition? Why, where we are to seek for the cause of his never having, even to this day, presented the Petition to the Prince from his own Constituents, which he was to have presented according to their resolution, "*accompanied by Lord Cockrane.*" This Petition had been agreed to at a very numerous Meeting in Palace Yard; its main subject was the corruption of the House of Com-

mons; it had been agreed to many months before I left England; and though many, many *Levees* had been held before that time, he had never been there to present that Petition, though he had been there for other purposes or for no purposes at all. Mr. Hunt may probably think it his duty to make public *the grounds* of Sir Francis's refusal upon the occasion above spoken of. For my part, I must content myself with the facts and with the conclusions, to which those facts naturally lead. At the Meeting in Spa Fields, Mr. Waddington observed, in speaking of the absence of Sir Francis Burdett, that "this was not a time for a man like Sir Francis to be nursing a boy that had tumbled out of a gig." But, no countenance was given to this by Mr. Hunt; and there appeared to the public, at any rate, no good reason whatever for declining to present this Petition.

This refusal, however, had very considerable weight in producing the subsequent events. The Boroughmonger news-papers, who knew very well what interpretation to give to this refusal, took special care to avail themselves of the occurrence. They took care to inform the public, that his son was so far recovered as to be able to ride out; that Sir Francis had gone to Hastings, where he was living in a house of GENERAL HULSE (a known creature of the court); and that Sir Francis himself, though he could not leave his son to come to the Meeting in Spa Fields, could leave him to go out a fox-hunting. In short, this refusal greatly encouraged the Boroughmongers; because they regarded it, and very justly, as a symptom that the Reformers would, when the pinch came, be abandoned by the man, whom they regarded as their chief, if not their only supporter in Parliament. Nevertheless, undaunted by this refusal, Mr. Hunt proceeded to present the Petition himself. And proceeded, according to the very letter of his promise, to Carlton House. He was there received with the greatest atten-

tion and respect, but was referred to the Secretary of State, as being the proper channel. By Lord Sidmouth he was received in a similar manner, who told him, that he would present the Petition to the Prince, and he further told him, that he disbelieved the calumnies published against him in the news-papers, and that he was convinced that Mr. Hunt's presence at the Meeting had prevented a great deal of mischief. His Lordship kept his promise in presenting the Petition without loss of time, and the moment he had so done, he informed Mr. Hunt of it by letter, *in order, that Mr. Hunt might make his report accordingly to the next Meeting.*

It was impossible for any gentleman in England to have conducted this matter with greater decorum than it was conducted by Mr. Hunt. But, now, observe, that it was clear from all these circumstances, that the Ministers must have had it completely in their power to prevent any thing resembling a commotion on the 2nd of December, when the next Meeting was held. They were perfectly well informed, even by Mr. Hunt himself, of the silly, inflammatory stuff, that was working in the minds of the Spencean enthusiasts. They had, besides, the proof of all this in DYALL's memorial. Was it, then, an act becoming a gentleman; was it an act becoming a friend of peace; was it an act becoming a Minister of the Crown, to keep silence as Lord Sidmouth did upon this occasion, and not to utter one word to Mr. Hunt in order to put him upon his guard; but, rather, to encourage him to hold the second Meeting, without putting him upon his guard at all?

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conduct; instead of putting Mr. Hunt upon his guard against those schemes of a set of wild men which were well known to the Home Office, the Home Office set itself to work to get in readiness Magistrates and Police officers to surround Mr. Hunt at the Meeting, and a short-hand writer to take down his words. This last is a very material circumstance indeed. VINCENT GEORGE DOWLING, who was brought forward upon the trial with his notes, confessed that he was engaged by *Mr. Gurney's clerk*, who was there as a short-hand writer, also, to assist him in taking a note of the speeches in the Field; and he further confessed that when he had transcribed his note of what passed, he gave it to Mr. Beckett, one of the under Secretaries of State. The cross-examination of this man was stopped by the Judges so as to prevent him from disclosing what passed between this witness and the officers of the government. However, he disclosed enough, for he confessed that he had said that he expected to be paid by the Government, not only for his notes as a short-hand writer, but for other trouble he had had in the business. And SAMUEL STEER swore upon the trial, that DOWLING had told him that this introduction to the Home Office "*was likely to lead to employment for himself and his brothers, which might amount to three hundred pounds a year.*" This was a disclosure that answered all purposes; for, it completely proved that the anxiety of the Ministers was not to prevent seditious words and actions, and riotous proceedings, but that their object was to obtain colourable grounds for bringing accusations against the Reformers in general; and against Mr. Hunt in particular. So that, if the Committee of the House of Lords had said in their Report, not that the conspirators in Spa-fields had been defeated in their object in November, but were prepared for success on the second of December; if they had not said this, and *had said,*

that the Boroughmongers, having missed their mark in November, had made preparations for hitting it on the second of December, that Report would so far have been perfectly correct.

But here again their scheme was marred, and the blows, which they intended principally for Mr. Hunt, have finally fallen upon their own heads. The Honourable Mr. Castles and Dowling have done the Boroughmongers, the Spenceans, and Mr. Hunt, and even young Watson, ample justice. We see Dowling prepared with his book of notes, dogging the rioters from place to place, and we hear him confess, and we see it proved by another witness, that he expected ample remuneration for his trouble, not only for himself, but for his brothers, a remuneration to come out of the sweat of the people. We see the "*honourable Mr.*" CASTLES exciting a senseless and thoughtless rabble to acts of fury. It was he, the "*honourable gentleman,*" who met Mr. Hunt in Cheapside, and told him to turn about and go with them, for that the Tower was in their hands. This fact Mr. Hunt declared upon his oath at the trial; and I am ready to declare upon my oath, that Mr. Hunt told me the same thing on the third of December. He did not then know the name of Castles; but his words were, "*that it was a damn'd scoundrel who had been guilty of conveying French prisoners out of the country.*" After this, Mr. Hunt repeated the same story in the presence of my son William; and we all agreed that there could be no doubt, that the chief instigators of this riot had been employed for the express purpose of obtaining the grounds for taking away his life; and, with the facts which have now come to light, I believe, that there is not an unprejudiced man in England or in America, who will not come to the same conclusion. *To strike him down* was a great object with the Boroughmongers. His talents are not of that sort which are calculated for sowing the seeds of con-

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viction in the mind. But admirably calculated for the time of the harvest. He has no pretensions to any thing further than great presence of mind in difficult and perilous circumstances; undaunted personal courage; and a perseverance that no discouragement can check. He commits errors enough, he is frequently carried away by his ardour, and is by no means deficient in point of ambition and self-sufficiency. But, who is the man to say that he is without spot or blemish; and that there is nothing in him that might not be mended? There is no such man, who has any virtue or any energy in him; and if he has neither, he is of no more importance than a log. I have never been able to discover any base selfish motive in Mr. Hunt. I know that as to overt acts, he has shewn more zeal in the cause of the country than any man I ever met with, Major Cartwright excepted. Nor, should the public listen at all, to those base tools of the Boroughmongers who have so large a portion of the press at their command, with regard to the talents of Mr. HUNT. I believe that, upon five or six different occasions, he has pleaded his own cause, in civil matters, or matters of trespass, and that in all these he has been triumphant. Twice before Mr. Baron Graham, he not only triumphed, but the lawyers were reprimanded by the Judge for attempting to act foully against him. In one case, though the evidence produced in an action of trespass against him, under the game-laws, led to a verdict against him, the Judge refused to certify upon the back of the record, so fully convinced was he by the speech and by the evidence produced by the defendant, that the action, and not the trespass, was malicious. These are facts, which are more than sufficient to answer all that the hirelings of the Boroughmongers have written about Mr. Hunt's want of talents. Still, however, his main talent is wonderful quickness and presence of mind in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

After the last election at Bristol, where Sir Samuel Romilly was a candidate against him, the latter gentleman in a speech publicly made, sought an occasion for declaring, that, through the whole of that boisterous contest, Mr. Hunt had conducted himself in every respect as became a gentleman and a man of honour. At that contest Mr. Hunt had no lawyer; and those who witnessed the quickness and ability with which he managed the law part of the election, were utterly astonished.

I mention these particulars in order to shew that Mr. Hunt was a man worth the powder and shot of the Boroughmongers. They knew all about him; for they know all about every body, either through their tax-gatherers, their post-office or their spies; and the Second of December was, I really believe, destined to be the last day of his liberty. Mr. Wetherell said, during his speech, that he made no doubt that Castles meant to have taken the life of Mr. Hunt, who, he said, had providentially escaped the trap; and, so fully was I convinced of this before I left England, that I told Mr. BRYANT, "Hunt owes his life to your happening to dine with him at the Bouverie Street Hotel, and to his own prudence in going to WANTED on the First of December, instead of remaining in town."

I might here close my observations upon the origin and progress of this conspiracy against the liberties of the country. But, the infamous *Boroughmonger Press*, particularly the atrocious and sanguinary wretches, who own the *Times*, the *Courier* and the *Sun*, must never be forgotten. While "the Honourable Mr." Castles was at work organising the riot; while GREEN, Mr. GURNEY's clerk, and his associate, Mr. DOWLING, were stitching their note-books together and sharpening their pencils as the butchers sharpen their knives, the conspirators of the press were not idle. They were preparing their para-

graphs, which were to confirm, or, at least, corroborate the testimony of the former. The *Courier*, who had acted so infamous a part, with regard to the first Meeting, had now his paragraphs ready to send all over the country charging Mr. Hunt with being the cause of the riot. The *Times* stated distinctly, that, on the Sunday previous to the riot, Mr. Hunt and myself were *in consultation at the King's Bench with my Lord Cochrane*; though I never saw Mr. Hunt during the whole of that day, and though he spent the whole of that day in Essex, and I spent the whole of that day at Peckham in Surrey. The *Sun* newspaper asserted, that I had come up from Botley expressly to assist in organising the insurrection, and that the moment it was over, I drove off home again. Though I had been in London from an early part of the month of November, and though I never left it, except to go to Peckham and back again, until the middle of the month of February after. But, these atrocious miscreants, knew well that we should stand no chance against them in any appeal to the law; and, besides, they made so sure of their prey, that they had not the least idea of any danger to themselves from any thing that they might do against us.

I beg you to turn back to my Register of the 14th of December last, which consists of a Letter addressed to Mr. Hunt upon the subject of the Plots. You will there see what I then said of the danger he was in from false-swearing; and how anxious I was to impress upon his mind, that these newspaper people were the most base and bloody of the tools of the Boroughmongers. One paragraph of that Letter I cannot help inserting here. After stating what I have above stated as to the conduct of the *Courier*, the *Times* and the *Sun*, I thus warn him of his danger.

“ You, conscious of your honourable motives, and listening only to your courage, have always been deaf to the intreaties of those who

cautioned you against the danger of spies and false-witnesses. But, do you think, that the wretches who could be base enough to publish falsehoods such as I have enumerated above: who could coolly represent you as having been sent first to jail and then to Bedlam; and who, in order to deter me from my duty, could exhibit my son as being in danger of his life, and thereby cause alarm in his mother and sisters: do you think that men so lost to all sense of shame, and so devoted to every thing that is corrupt; do you think they would hesitate one moment to bribe villains to swear falsely against you or against me or against any man, whom they thought it their interest to destroy? Nay, do you think, that they would hesitate one single half moment to be guilty, for such a purpose, of the blackest perjury themselves? Be you assured, that there is nothing of which such men are not capable; intimidation, promises, bribes, perjury, any thing such men are capable of recommending to others, or of doing themselves. Your country life, your sober habits, your dislike of feasting and carousings; these are great securities; but, while you follow the impulses of your public spirit and your valour, I hope you will always bear in mind, that there are such things as *false-swearing* in the world, and that a defeated coward has never been known to be otherwise than inexorably cruel. The proprietor of the *Morning Post*, in his Paper of last Monday, says, that *COBBETT and HUNT* ought at least to *lose their lives*; and the author of the *ANTIGALLICAN* has, I am told, put the drawing of a gallows in his Paper, with a rope ready for use, having *my name* on it, or very near it.—And, you may be well assured, that, if the *false oaths* of these men could do the job, those oaths would be very much at our service. Therefore,

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“ though I am quite sure, that these
 “ menaces will not deter you from
 “ doing any thing, which you would
 “ have done if the menaces had never
 “ been made; yet, as being proofs of
 “ the shameless, the remorseless, the
 “ desperate villainy of these tools,
 “ their present conduct ought to im-
 “ press on your mind the necessity of
 “ being on your guard, so far, at
 “ least, as not *unnecessarily* to expose
 “ yourself to the consequences of
 “ *false-swearing*. These men and their
 “ associates call the younger Mr.
 “ WATSON (whom they, without
 “ proof, charge with shooting Mr.
 “ PLATT) an *assassin*, though they
 “ themselves state, that the shot arose
 “ from the seizure of Watson by Platt,
 “ and that the former, like a wild en-
 “ thusiast as he appears to have been,
 “ expressed his sorrow on the instant,
 “ and actually went to work to save
 “ the life of the wounded man. No-
 “ body justifies, or attempts to jus-
 “ tify, the shooter; but, if he were an
 “ *assassin*, what are these men who,
 “ while they keep their *names hidden*,
 “ are endeavouring to produce per-
 “ secution and ruin and death in
 “ every direction? The man who shot
 “ Mr. PLATT, though highly criminal,
 “ is not a thousandth part so criminal
 “ as these men, who to premeditated
 “ bloody-mindedness add a degree of
 “ cowardice such as was never before
 “ heard of.”

I was very certain that the riot had
 been caused by the Boroughmongers,
 and that Mr. Hunt's prudence, joined
 to my advice, had defeated their grand
 object. I remember well, and he will
 remember too, that when he came up
 from the country to go to the second
 Spa Fields Meeting, I took infinite
 pains to convince him of the existence
 of a conspiracy against his life; and
 he will remember my concluding
 words: “ Hunt, your life is not safe
 “ for a month, unless you are in a
 “ situation to prove an *alibi*, for every
 “ moment of that life.” He clenched
 his fists and swore, that a man had

better be hanged at once than to live
 such a life. However, I luckily pre-
 vailed upon him to go into the coun-
 try, and to drive directly from the
 country to the Meeting in Spa Fields;
 and now, I believe, the whole nation
 will be convinced, as he long ago has
 been, that this advice and this alone
 has saved him and all the unfortunate
 men, who have lately been put upon
 their trial, from the fangs of the blood-
 hounds of the Boroughmongers.

No more need be said upon the
 subject of this conspiracy of the
 Boroughmongers against the liberties
 of the nation. They have at last re-
 sorted to open undisguised force; they
 have thrown off the mask, or rather,
 we have pulled it off from them; they
 have now found, that *Juries* will not
 lend them their assistance; and they
 must set *Juries* wholly aside, and
 trust simply to the sword, or, they
 must give us our rights, and particu-
 larly our right of choosing our Re-
 presentatives in Parliament. Even
 their spies are detected and exposed.
 Hundreds of thousands of those in the
 middle and higher ranks of life, who
 approved of the first adoption of the
 present terrible measures, now begin
 to look at them with dread. “ *Where*
 “ *is this to end?*” every one now asks.
 And, well may every one ask that
 question; for, if the people cannot be
 suffered to enjoy liberty now, when
 are they to be suffered to enjoy it?
 Cast your eyes which way you will,
 you see, that the only real reliance is
 upon the bayonet. The State Pri-
 soners could not be tried at the Old
 Bailey as usual, because it was well
 known that the Lord Mayor, would
 not, without down-right force, have
 consented to the use of *troops* in the
 escorting of prisoners to and from a
 court of Justice. Troops we are told
 in these newspapers, were ready in
 great bodies, to come to Westminster
 Hall, in case of necessity. What a
 disgraceful fact! Many thousands of
 troops, these papers tell me, were pre-
 sent at the opening of the Waterloo

Bridge! To see the toll paid, I suppose! But, troops to assist the *Judges* in the execution of their duty! Troops, too, in all the Assize Towns, during the Circuit. What is now become of that famous principle of our laws which would suffer no troops to remain even near to an Assize Town, during the sitting of the Judges? What is now become of that justly boasted omnipotence of the laws, which was once the chief glory of England, as it now is the glory of America, where the Sheriff's wand is more than sufficient to protect the Judges, and to insure the due execution of the law upon every offender? But, in America there are no Boroughmongers; every man has a voice in choosing those who make the laws by which he is governed; and, therefore, every one but criminals entertains a reverence for the laws, and feels that he has an interest in upholding those by whom those laws are administered.

And, my friends, shall our beloved and renowned country never see such days again. If I thought so, I should little care how soon there was an end to my existence. Injustice such as now prevails in England, cannot be of *long duration*. It is a great struggle that is now going on, and when I look back into the history of my country, I can find the account of no great struggle, in which justice and liberty were not finally victorious. The Boroughmongers are beset with difficulties. The poor flimsy thing that prates about their finances, knows little more about the matter than a Jack Daw. The whole fabric of their affairs is rotten. They have armed against them all the best feelings of mankind;

and, for my part, I look for their overthrow with as much confidence as I look for to-morrow.

Let the people be *patient*. They cannot be killed in any great numbers, unless they proceed to open warfare, which I by all means deprecate. Let all those who wish to see the liberties of the country restored, aim at the destruction of no antient establishment. It is the usurpation of the Boroughmongers; and that usurpation alone, with which we are at war. It is that which has reduced our country to such unexampled misery; it is that which has been the cause of the miseries of Europe as well as of England; it is that which has hatched all the plots, all the conspiracies, and that has aimed its fangs at the lives of so many innocent men. It was the Boroughmongers, who produced the long and bloody war in this country, where I now am. The ground of their present contest against us is precisely the same ground, and I trust that the result of the contest, now as well as then, will prove that freedom is immortal.

Before I conclude, I cannot help expressing my hope, that some step will now be taken to put safely upon record, the *name and conduct* of every man, high and low, who may have taken a part, or, who may yet take a part, or, at least, a conspicuous part, in any of these transactions, whether the part he has acted be good or bad. A book might be made, and the names arranged alphabetically, and it might be called, *The People's Memorandum Book*. *Shepherd, Sidmouth, Castles, Dowling, Stewart, Walter, Street, Stoddart, Wm. Gif-*

ford, Southey, Garrow, Powis, Parson Baines, Lockhart the Brave, Wilberforce, Milton Lord, Elliot Wm. Castlereagh, Lambe, Ponsonby, Reynolds, Oliver, Cartwright Major, Hunt, Walker, Cobbett, Cochrane Lord; and so on. I would have all the names arranged, as I said before, alphabetically. And against each name I would have the prominent acts of the party mentioned. Every one who has made a speech for or against any of the Bills, should have his name introduced, the jet of his speech should be mentioned, very shortly, and the speech itself referred to. The names of all the persons in the lists of Minorities and Majorities upon any of the Bills, should be introduced, and the circumstance mentioned. The names of those who were upon the Secret Committees in both Houses; the names of all persons all over the country, who have taken any active part, good or bad. The names of all Magistrates and Clergymen who have taken a part, whether good or bad. The names of all the Judges that have been upon the Bench when trials under any of these acts have been going on. The names of all Jurors who may have been upon Juries where men have been tried at the prosecution of Shepherd, or any other subsequent Attorney General, after the passing of these Bills. I would recommend the stating, very briefly, the simple facts, against each name, without any observation at all, and, consequently, without either praise or censure. All that we want, is, something to refresh our memory. We are a people *too apt to forget*. All the Lawyers should

be mentioned, who have aided and abetted the parties on either side. I have just given such heads as have occurred to me off-hand. Many others will suggest themselves to any gentleman of talent and industry who will undertake such a work. I would introduce the names of all the Borough-mongers, from Oldfield's Book, and mention the number of seats which he gives to each. Their names would naturally come in for other purposes, but the circumstance of *Boroughmonger* should be stated. When a name is mentioned, the Red Book, the Sincure and Pension and Army List, should be looked into, to see how the party stands there, and to see how the relations of the party stand there. It should also be seen how the party is connected with the Bank of England or East India Company; or whether he has been a Contractor, or the like.

If any gentleman will undertake a work of this sort, and will execute it in a manner suitable to the intention, and put it at a moderate price, I will engage to subscribe for five hundred copies. It might be in a duodecimo form of about three or four hundred pages. It might be bound in sheepskin at a very trifling expence, and, as the edition would be numerous, it might be sold by retail at about three shillings or three shillings and three pence. Very few words would be necessary against each name: for instance,

FOLKSTONE, LORD, moved for List of State Prisoners, such a day.

WILBERFORCE, Wm. spoke and voted for renewal of Power-of-Imprisonment Bill, such a day.

SIDMOUTH, LD., moved the Power-

of-Imprisonment Bill, such a day.

Issued Circular such a day, &c.

SHEPHERD, SIR SAMUEL, Attorney General, advised Sidmouth's Circular; prosecuted Watson, &c.

In this sort of way, with as many particulars as room will allow of; but, any gentleman who will undertake the work, and is qualified for it, will be able to judge for himself what are the facts to be stated. There is no need of being very particular in collecting every fact against every name. Two or three striking facts against each name, with a reference to the Speech or to the account of the transaction, will be quite enough. But the price of the book is a main consideration, and it must not exceed the fourth part of a week's wages for a labouring man.

If I do not receive, in a few months, an intimation from some one that such a work is undertaken, I shall make one of my sons undertake it; for, forget these things we will not.

In health, with both my sons in good health, and made very happy by just having heard of the health of my family in England, and of the great kindness of numerous friends towards that family,

I remain, my Worthy Friends,

Yeur's most sincerely,

WM. COBBETT.

TO THE PUBLISHER.

11th Oct. 1817.

SIR—In Mr. Cobbett's Register of this day, it is stated that he heard it

publicly declared that my Petition to the House of Lords in February last, was "*presented against the judgment of Sir FRANCIS BURDETT*, though that Petition remained to be cited by every body as a most triumphant answer to the Report of the House of Lords." From this passage it must be inferred, that the advice or opinion of Sir FRANCIS BURDETT was given on the propriety of presenting that Petition; whereas the fact is otherwise: Sir F. BURDETT never was consulted upon the subject; nor did he know of the intention of presenting the Petition, or even of its existence until after it had been placed in the hands of Earl Grosvenor who undertook to present it; and I afterwards heard Sir FRANCIS BURDETT express himself in terms of much warm approbation of the petition itself, as well as its valuable service in exposing the monstrous misrepresentations and unfounded assertions in the Report alluded to. As Mr. Cobbett, therefore, when he wrote the above paragraph, must have laboured under some misconception or mis-information, I trust you will, in justice to Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, give all the publicity to these facts which, I feel satisfied, Mr. Cobbett himself would do, if personally present.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

THOMAS CLEARY.

Entered at Stationers' Hall.

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